

The School District of Philadelphia
JOHN HANCOCK DEMONSTRATION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
3700 MORRELL AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19114-1927

Mr. William J. Griffin, Principal
Mrs. Kimberly Stokes, Assistant Principal
Dr. Nicole Bourque, Assistant Principal

Office: (215) 400-3120
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August 26, 2019

Dear Hancock and LaBrum School Families:

Welcome back! Or, if you are new to our Hancock/LaBrum family, welcome and thank you for choosing our amazing school for your child's education. I hope you enjoyed a wonderful summer and are ready to start a new school year on Tuesday, September 3, 2019.

Last school year was filled with lots of fun learning experiences and student successes. Here are a few of our favorite memories:

- Our LaBrum Boy's Baseball Team won the City championship.
- The Drama Club's Shrek The Musical Junior performances were wonderful.
- Our Dancing Classroom Ballroom Dancing Team won a Bronze Ribbon in the Semi-Finals.
- Many of our students are now members of the National Junior Honor Society.
- Our Eighth Grade Students were offered to attend multiple public and private schools in the Philadelphia area.

Investing in a safer, healthier and more inviting learning environment for students and staff has been a top priority this past spring and summer. Our custodial staff have been scrubbing and shining the school buildings all summer getting them ready for the children. We have recently added 30 Smart boards to our classrooms. We purchased new desks and chairs in four (4) LaBrum Middle School Classrooms. A new fire alarm system was installed at Hancock Elementary School and we are expecting the same to be installed at LaBrum Middle School in the coming year.

We are already gearing up for an incredible new school year. Our teachers have attended training sessions to better help all students learn and grow. Our front office team is updating student files and ordering new materials. Our hard-working custodians have spent the summer cleaning our school, and our cafeteria workers are preparing to serve your children delicious, healthy and free breakfast and lunch each school day.

Assistant Principal, Mrs. Kimberly Stokes will continue to serve as the site administrator at Hancock Elementary School. She will be assigned solely to the Hancock Elementary School and available to answer your questions, to address concerns, and to identify solutions. Please feel free to email Mrs. Stokes anytime at kastokes@philasd.org or call her at the Hancock Elementary School office at (215) 3120 with your questions or concerns.

Assistant Principal, Dr. Nicole Bourque will continue to serve as the site administrator at LaBrum Middle School. She will be assigned solely to the LaBrum School and available to answer your questions, to address concerns, and to identify solutions. Please feel free to email Dr. Bourque anytime at nbourque@philasd.org or call her at the LaBrum Middle School office at (215) 400-3122 with your questions or concerns.

We look forward to meeting you and working with you throughout the school year. I try to start my day everyday at LaBrum. As always, we are in the Hancock Schoolyard in the morning every chance we can to lead the Hancock Morning Exercises. If you have a question, want to share an idea, address a concern or make a comment, please feel free to approach any member of the administrative team after the morning exercises. We will always do what we can to answer your questions, resolve your concerns or consider your suggestions.

We ask that parents and guardians support the education of their children by being involved. Our School Advisory Council (SAC) and the Friends of John Hancock Organization provide many vital supports and services to the Hancock School and both are always looking for new members. SAC and Friends of John Hancock School Leaders will be available to meet and encourage parents to join their organizations during our Back to School Night. The Back to School Night for the John Hancock Elementary School will be Thursday, September 19, 2019 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm and Back to School Night for John Hancock Middle School – LaBrum Campus will be Thursday, September 12, 2019 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

We ask that parents support the educational process by making sure each child practices sound living habits like a regular bedtime, healthy meals, a quiet place to do homework, and encouragement to practice good citizenship. Behavior that is appropriate for play is not always appropriate for school. The goal will be to stress good manners. We will be working very hard to eliminate rough play and bullying. Please review these ideas with your children and support the staff in creating a safe and warm environment for all students. Working together, we can ensure your child's success. If you have any questions on how you can support your child or concerns about your child, please contact your child's teacher or school counselor.

Communication is key to the educational process. We continue to use technology to keep parents informed. The Hancock School stays active on Social Media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. In addition, both buildings utilize the Remind App to keep parents updated regularly. Social media is frequently utilized to keep parents and the Hancock/LaBrum School Community informed. Parents can request access to these accounts at [@JHancockSchool](https://www.facebook.com/groups/HancockSAC/) and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HancockSAC/>. Additionally important School information and updates are placed on the Hancock School website at www.philasd.org/schools/hancock/. We will continue to utilize an automated phone service that will call your home leaving attendance information and other important announcements. Please feel free to email me anytime at bgriffin@philasd.org. As always, please call the Hancock School Office at (215) 400- 3120 with your questions or concerns.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

William J. Griffin, Principal